

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 08503 061559Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 L-03 /031 W

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R 061541Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5100

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 8503

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM TS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS PAPER FOR TUNISIA

REF: STATE 294162; TUNIS 7807; TUNIS A-57;

TUNIS A-25.

1. IN EARLY 1976 AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH LEVEL OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT AGITATION ON CAMPUS RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS FOR CAUSING PUBLIC DISORDER. MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT INVOLVED IN SERIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND WERE GIVEN LIGHT SENTENCES OR RELEASED WITHOUT TRIAL. THERE HAS BEEN NO RECURRENCE OF STATE SECURITY COURT TRIALS OF SERIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AS IN 1974 AND 1975. ALL OF THESE TRIALS (1974-76) TOOK PLACE IN PUBLIC, AND ACCUSED HAD RIGHT TO PRESENT DEFENSE. IT IS THE HARSHER SENTENCES PASSED OUT IN 1974-75 TRIALS WHICH SOME TUNISIAN AND NON-TUNISIAN GROUPS HAVE CRITICIZED.

2. GOT HAS REGULARLY INCLUDED INDIVIDUALS IN ITS PERIODIC AMNESTY LISTS WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED "POLITICAL PRISONERS." PERSONS PARDONED, HOWEVER, ARE NOT AMONG THOSE WHO CAN BE CLASSED AS SERIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVISTS (SEE TUNIS A-57, JUNE 17, 1976).

3. EMBASSY'S 1976 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT (A-25, MARCH 10, 1976) CONTINUES TO BE REFLECTIVE OF GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TUNISIA AND AS THIS IS BASIS FOR DRAFT PAPER NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, EMBASSY REAFFIRMS APPROVAL OF PAPER AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNICATED TO DEPARTMENT ON NOV. 5, 1976, IN TUNIS 7807.

IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES, ESSENCE THIS MESSAGE MAY BE
INCLUDED IN FINAL PARA OF DRAFT PAPER.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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